



# BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

In our Weekly Update, we often tell you about good work by our officers that involves the stuff you see on TV dramas - foot chases, arrests, forensics, etc. In real life, quite often some of the best work would not make for an interesting TV show, but it is just as important; sometimes much more important. Last week, Officer Cory Ditmer took a domestic violence report involving a woman who had recently immigrated to the United States. The report came through the woman's manager at her office who noticed bruising and evidence of ongoing physical assaults. Officer Ditmer diligently worked on getting all of the information despite a significant language barrier and the victim's apprehension in talking to the police at all. He learned that she and her husband live here with his extended family. Officer Ditmer made several attempts to follow up, but received no cooperation from the extended family. Officer Ditmer finally made arrangements for the victim to have a safe place to go, as she was afraid to go home at all, and referred the report for prosecution. An arrest warrant was issued, although the suspect has not been taken into custody yet, as he has either not been at home or he is being hidden by family members. This kind of case is complex, time consuming and requires tremendous patience. But just as running into a burning building may save a life, this kind of investigation and follow up may very well do the same.

On a much lighter note, last weekend our officers were handling a report of a fight involving several very intoxicated people. While at the location, one of the drunken men said, "Hey, can I get a card or a sticker, my nephew wants to be a fireman!" This did not improve the quality of the interaction. He went on to add, "Hey, even though everyone else hates you guys, I love you guys, you're doing a great job." Nice to be appreciated. I think.

Our officers have been out on bike patrol more frequently, and Sunday Officer Jordan Ejde received information on a warrant that had just been issued for failure to register for a sex offender. About seventeen seconds later, Officer Ejde contacted the subject, who unsurprisingly ran away on foot as other officers saturated the area. The man eventually tripped and fell, but continued to try to escape... while his friends filmed the encounter on their cell phones. He was jailed.

As the legislature continues to consider a bill that would decrease prison time for serious property offenders, putting more people on Dept. of Corrections supervision instead, think about how many people we encounter who are already under DOC supervision, and who are the subject of arrest warrants because they did not comply with their conditions. Monday night, Officer Brandon Greenhill was out checking the area of 8th Street and Park Avenue for people illegally camping and consuming alcoholic beverages. During that check, he located a man with a DOC escape warrant. The very next day, Brandon responded to the report of three people walking through an area in West Bremerton dumping over garbage cans. Cencom, the dispatch center, provided a description of the three individuals and a short time later, Brandon found all three walking into a parking lot. One of the three was wanted by the Department of Corrections for an Escape From Community Custody Arrest Warrant, as well as a warrant out of Bremerton Municipal Court for 4th Degree Domestic Violence. He was taken into custody.

The Kitsap Sun did a story last week about the apparent increase in homeless people everywhere, including our area. The story did a nice job highlighting something we feel is important to differentiate between homeless people doing the best they can and seeking services, and "criminal vagrants" who commit crimes and cause problems to support their lifestyle. Wednesday night, our bike officers issued three citations for unauthorized camping and we continue to actively check areas to ensure camps don't reappear. Thursday night a citizen on Elizabeth Ave. noticed someone in his neighbor's yard pulling on doors to the house and shed; the neighbor keenly noticed that the man was not his neighbor and called 911. Officers Cory Ditmer and Phil Whatley were close by and arrived within seconds. Officer Ditmer quickly located and detained the man, who resisted arrest and, once in custody, gave several false names. After his ID was located, along with some methamphetamine, it was learned that he is a perfect example of a criminal vagrant who had just been released from jail within the last 24 hours. He was promptly returned to jail for new charges of Attempted Burglary, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Obstructing Arrest, and Making False Statements.

[Click here](#) for the latest "High Five".

Thursday, Officer Whatley was on duty at the ferry terminal and was told that a man had just jumped off a railing. Apparently the man had dropped a book in the water and jumped in to retrieve it, which was not a good idea as he fell about 30 feet and he was unable to stand back up after reaching the shore. He was assisted out of the water by the Bremerton Fire Dept. and Naval Base Kitsap.

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